

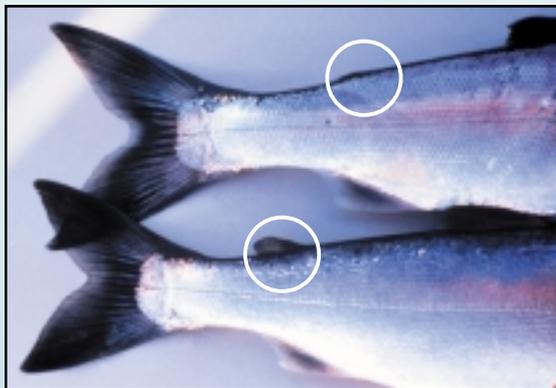
Selective Fishing

The Future of Sport Salmon Fishing in Washington State

As a result of declining numbers of some wild chinook and coho stocks, fisheries managers are further challenged to protect these stocks while at the same time providing angler opportunity. To enable anglers to distinguish wild from hatchery salmon, the hatchery salmon are marked by removing the adipose fin (see diagram below and on back cover). This activity allows anglers to release wild coho while still retaining hatchery stocks.

In 2001, selective fishing opportunities (in which anglers can retain hatchery coho) will occur in **Catch Record Card Areas (Marine Areas) 4 and 5 from July 1 through September 30, in CRCs 6 and 7 from August 1 through September 30, and in CRC13 from July 1 through October 31.**

Please refer to the current *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet to learn more about salmon fishing rules by area.



Removed adipose fin (hatchery salmon) and intact adipose fin (wild salmon).

Salmon Identification

In addition to distinguishing between hatchery and wild salmon, it is also important to be able to identify salmon by species. For example, sport salmon seasons may require careful release of specific salmon species.

The three salmon species most likely to be encountered by saltwater anglers in Washington are: chinook, coho and pink salmon. The following pictures and narrative will help guide you in their identification.

Chinook Salmon (blackmouth or king):

Teeth emerge from a black gumline on lower jaw; circular black spots on the tail.



Coho Salmon (silver):

Teeth emerge from a white gumline on lower jaw; spots are usually missing on the tail, but may be lightly spotted on the upper portion of tail.



Pink Salmon (humpie): Pink salmon return to Washington waters primarily in odd-numbered years (1999 for example). They have large oval spots on the tail, and their scales are tiny compared to other salmon species. They are also the smallest-sized Pacific salmon, averaging three-to-five pounds.



Releasing Salmon Carefully

By carefully releasing salmon, you contribute to the likelihood of improving their survival rate. Several techniques are important to the careful release of salmon. Foremost, please do not remove the fish from the water, and avoid netting the fish whenever possible. Netting a salmon can cause loss of scales and may reduce survival.

Many anglers now use a “de-hooker,” which provides the capability to release fish quickly without handling. De-hookers can be easily made at home with a wood dowel cut to your length of preference. By cutting to a preferred length, the dowel can also serve as a measuring tool while the fish is in the water. Screw a threaded cup hook into the end of the dowel, and follow the four-point outline “Using the de-hooker” on the other side of this brochure.

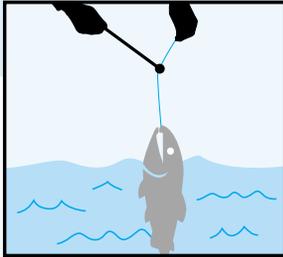
Using the de-hooker

1. Identify and measure the salmon.

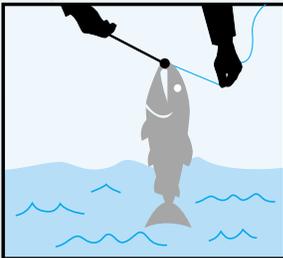
adipose fin (wild salmon)



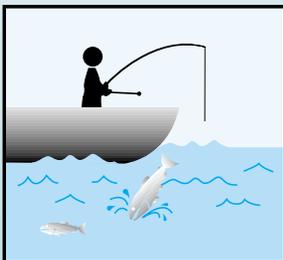
2. If it is not legal to keep or you want to release the fish, grip the line-leader 12-18 inches from the mouth. Slide the eye-hook on the de-hooker down the line to the bend of the hook in the salmon's mouth.



3. Lift the de-hooker with the eye-hook pointed toward the water, while dropping the hand holding the leader toward the water.



4. The weight of the fish coming out of the water, combined with the barbless hook, results in a quick release.



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**FISH and
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Fishing in Washington State**

